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Editorial

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In this final issue of 2017 we present our first ever photo essay; a powerful piece from Hayley Saul and Emma Waterton (both University of Western Sydney, Australia) which reflects on their personal and often traumatic experiences of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. Through their commentary and sensitive images we gain an intimate impression of the ways in which the community came together in the aftermath of this devastating natural disaster.

This issue also includes the final installments of two different Special Series. The first is entitled 'To Preserve and Protect: The National Park Service and Community Archaeology', and has been guest-edited by Teresa Moyer of the USA's National Parks Service (NPS). Following earlier sets in 2015 (Issue 2.3) and 2016 (Issue 3.3), this final set of papers completes a series written in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the NPS in 2016. Given current political winds in the USA, which threaten all heritage and preservation funding, it is not an overstatement to say that the future of the NPS hangs in the balance. Therefore we are pleased to recognize the important ways that this vital and important national agency has accepted, and embraced, change, even as it celebrates the past. Moyer's Guest Editorial introduces the two papers: one from Jeffrey Burton on work at Manzanar Incarceration Camp in California, one of several sites where Japanese Americans were kept during the Second World War following the bombardment of Pearl Harbor; and one from Megan Springate on using archaeology to reach the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer heritage of the USA. Both papers deal with often emotional material and with communities that have been marginalized at different times, and both demonstrate the continuing social relevance of the work of the NPS.

The second set of papers, 'African Perspectives on Community Engagements', is introduced by guest-editor Peter Schmidt (the first set appeared earlier this year, in Issue 4.2). Here are three more thought provoking discussions about community archaeologies as they continue to emerge in various parts of Africa. His preface also introduces the particulars of each paper. As with the first instalment, the papers cover a diverse range of heritage from across the continent. These are community engagement around a proposed heritage centre in Matatiele, South Africa (Nbathiseng Mokoena, University of Cape Town), opening community collaboration and discussion around the Royal City of Meroe in Sudan (Jane Humphris, UCL Qatar and Rebecca Bradshaw, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), and an at times critical reflection on the impact of years of archaeological intervention in coastal and western Kenya (Chapurukha M. Kusimba, American University).

The issue also includes a review of Positioning your Museum as a Critical Community Asset, edited by Robert P Connolly and Elizabeth Bollwerk (reviewed by Bethany Rex of Newcastle University, UK), and a review of Archaeological Resource Management - An International Perspective, by John Carman (reviewed by Annemarie Willems with AW Heritage Consultancy, Finland). We close this introduction with the announcement of very exciting milestone. As of the first issue of 2018 (Volume 5) we will transition from three issues a year to four. Clearly, we will need content for these issues! Therefore, we continue to welcome individual papers, proposals for Special Issues and Series, and proposals for alternate formats as well. Our doors are open!